

PRESS RELEASE
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Communist Party of the Philippines

Combine the most effective means to remove Gloria Arroyo: A rejoinder to Sen. Joker Arroyo's Statements

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It is fine for Sen. Joker Arroyo to have joined the overwhelming clamor for Gloria Arroyo's ejection from Malacañang. He may want to believe that impeachment proceedings against Gloria Arroyo can succeed despite the present overwhelming number of Gloria Arroyo's allies in Congress and Malacañang's maneuvers to preempt and control the impeachment process. But unless the balance of forces in Congress is reversed, impeachment is, at the moment, the least viable option for removing Gloria Arroyo from Malacañang. Noticeably, not a single one among the opposition is biting.

At any rate, we would like to advise Sen. Arroyo that his advocacy for undertaking impeachment procedures, should not be posed against the people's sovereign rights and freedom to carry out direct political and extra-parliamentary actions. The people should not be baited into booby-trapped legalist steps configured to fail. Whether or not Gloria Arroyo still stands a good chance of being impeached, it is paramount that the Filipino people be able to exercise their full initiative and undertake independent mass actions to remove the detested Arroyo government and replace it with one that they believe would more effectively address their aspirations.

To bring down the rotten and corrupt regime of Gloria Arroyo, the Filipino people are once again obliged to directly exercise their decisive power. Given the present domination of parliament by the ruling clique and Gloria Arroyo's recalcitrance and insistence on even entrenching her regime in the face of the worsening situation and the mounting people's demand for her ouster, the people's direct extra-parliamentary political action becomes all the more crucial. Extra-parliamentary processes can combine with whatever parliamentary processes that remain viable.

The Filipino people have learned from the EDSA uprisings of 1986 and 2001, that by undertaking independent and direct political action, uniting the broadest sections of the population and winning over or neutralizing significant sections of the armed forces, they can shape history and effect great political changes. Such monumental political undertakings by the mass of the people will have to be carried out again and again increasing every time in revolutionary content and form, side by side with the people's armed struggle, until the necessary basic historical and social changes are thoroughly attained.

In the process of struggling to end the Marcos and Estrada regimes and asserting their, the people exercised flexibility in applying extra-legal and extra-parliamentary as well as legal and parliamentary tactics. They exercised their sovereign rights and basic freedoms over constitutional flaws and limitations. It is the reactionary politicians who double-talk as they invoke the

“sacredness” and “inviolability” of the constitution when it suits them and discard it when it fetters their interest or contention for political power.

Sen. Arroyo surely recalls his participation in the prosecution and gallery's dramatic walk-out from the impeachment trial in January 17, 2001 when it reached an impasse and clearly could no longer serve to attain justice.

EDSA 2 did not occur at the spur of the moment, as Senator Arroyo must certainly acknowledge. The impeachment court's refusal to have the second envelope opened may have triggered the rapid mass up at EDSA and other major urban centers throughout the country from January 17-21, 2001. But well before that, the Oust Estrada movement had been growing outside of parliament, gathering steam for the explosion of a second EDSA uprising. Demands for Estrada's ouster had been echoing in publications, public fora and meetings, street demonstrations, strikes and the like. These mass actions had, in fact, served as impetus to the launching of the impeachment process.

Under the Marcos dictatorship, the people's extra-parliamentary struggle went beyond the existing constitution and restrictions set by the martial law regime. Immediately precipitated by a walk-out of Comelec personnel in protest of the cheating by the Marcos regime of the 1986 Snap Elections and a mutiny of disgruntled forces in the AFP, the February 1986 uprising that overthrew the Marcos dictatorship was only the culmination of decades of people's struggle.

For more than 20 years, masses of students, workers, peasants and other sectors persistently and heroically carried out legal democratic struggle and armed struggle that contributed most importantly and substantially to the eventual ouster of the Marcos dictatorship. With the revolutionary mass movement at the core, the Filipino people waged resolute struggle in various forms against the martial law regime that led to the first people's power uprising at EDSA which finally brought it down.

In both mass uprisings as well as in the long series of mass actions and political preparations that led to them, it was the progressive and democratic forces that devotedly and persistently provided the core forces. Contrary to Senator Arroyo's recollection, the CPP and the revolutionary forces fully supported both the EDSA uprisings in 1986 and 2001.

As the CPP has previously stated, NPA units will continue to undertake armed tactical offensives in the countryside to advance people's war. These attritive offensives can serve to tie down the fascist troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to provide the people maximum leverage to exercise their democratic rights to oust the condemned Arroyo regime.